NOTES

NOTE 1. PAGE vi.

The works of Dürer which Tory mentions here are, first (Geometry): *Underweysung der Messung mit dem Zirckel und Richtscheyt in Linien, Ebnen und ganzen Corporen*, Nuremberg, 1525; second (Fortifications): *Etliche Underricht zu Befestigung der Stett, Schloss und Flecken*, Nuremberg, 1527; and third (Proportions of the Human Body): *Hierinnen sind begriffen vier Bücher von menschlicher Proportion*, Nuremberg, 1528. On pages 34–36 will be found a discussion of a part of the first of these volumes, there referred to as Dürer's 'book on Perspective.'

This reference to works published in 1527 and 1528 is interesting chiefly as showing that Tory rehandled his work to some extent between the date of the 'Privilege' (1526) and that of the '*achevé d'imprimer*' (April, 1529).

NOTE 2. PAGE viii.

This passage may be made a little more easily intelligible by a brief paraphrase of the description given by Aulus Gellius in the book and chapter cited by Tory.

The ancient Lacedæmonians, to ensure the letters sent to their generals against capture and detection by the foe, devised missives of this sort. Making two rods exactly identical with each other, they gave one to the general and kept the other in the hands of the magistrates at home. When occasion arose to despatch instructions to the army in the field, the magistrates wound a strip of leather, of moderate thickness, spirally around the rod, joining edge to edge. They then wrote lengthwise over the junctures of the strip, so that the writing was undecipherable when the strip was removed from the rod, and intelligible only when it was applied to the identical rod in the hands of the general. This kind of epistle the Lacedæmonians called σκυτάλη.

Erasmus says in the 'Proverb' cited:

'*Tristis scytale* was used of something baneful and frenzied, or of a message of a sort which brought pain. . . . Which, indeed, seems capable of being applied not without sense either to a very short letter or to one that is cryptic and written about secret matters, or to one that is distressing and announces bad news. What a *scytale Laconica* is, however, Aulus Gellius states. But it will be better to write his own words.' Then follows the passage of Gellius summarized above.

It has proved to be a matter of so much difficulty to reconcile Tory's numbering of the Proverbs (or Adages) of Erasmus with that in any of the available editions, that the effort has been abandoned as hardly worth while. The first edition (1500), under the title *Collectanea adagiorum*, contains 800 items, put together with scanty elucidations. The second edition (1508), conceived on broader and more learned lines, justified a new title and redistribution into groups of hundreds (*centons*) and thousands (*chiliades*). The title of this edition is: *Adagiorum Chiliades Desiderii Erasmi Roterodami quatuor cum sesquicenturia ex postrema autoris recognitione.* The later editions with numbered references follow this system. Other editions have the proverbs arranged alphabetically, but with no numbers.

It happens that this first reference to the Adages is almost the only one in which Tory's numbering corresponds with that of the edition of 1508.

NOTE 3. PAGE xxi.

Rabelais borrowed this bit of 'skimming' of Latin in the sixth chapter of the Second Book of *Pantagruel*, in the humorous discourse of the Limousin scholar.